



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2005-153

Monday, December 5, 2005

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**Burmaster announces international education recommendations
that provide vision for Wisconsin's global future**

MADISON—Wisconsin's long-standing reputation for excellence in international education took another leap forward with the introduction of 26 recommendations for global literacy from the state's International Education Council.

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster chairs the statewide International Education Council, which she and Gov. Jim Doyle created in the fall of 2002. Its mission is to bring together education, business, and community leaders to determine what Wisconsin students need to succeed in an era of rapid global changes: to understand world economics, peoples, and cultures and to function comfortably and effectively in languages and cultures other than their own.

"Our council's recommendations are bold," Burmaster said. "They provide a vision for Wisconsin that will help our students become globally literate for the 21st century. They provide a unified plan for internationalizing PK-16 education and for bringing these efforts to all Wisconsin citizens."

The recommendations are grouped under five areas:

- global literacy for all students,
- world languages for all students,
- global training for all teachers,
- intercultural experiences for all citizens, and
- international linkages for Wisconsin businesses and government.

The council's recommendations create an expectation that Wisconsin students will study and speak proficiently languages in addition to English; will travel abroad for school programs, arts exchanges, or internship experiences; will engage in problem solving and build mediation skills so

(more)

they will thrive in a world where ideas and ideologies may compete; and will have more opportunities to experience and learn to appreciate the many multicultural opportunities available in Wisconsin's diverse ethnic and racial communities.

"We must expand our vision," Burmaster stressed. "Governments in other countries have embraced the challenge of creating world-class, highly competitive educational systems in which their students are fluent in at least two languages and understand the need for international travel, business, and commerce. We must move our schools forward by infusing international education throughout the curriculum or be left struggling and isolated in an increasingly global and interdependent world."

The council's recommendations ensure that global studies move beyond social studies and world language classrooms to encompass the entire curriculum. Most recommendations can be accomplished by refocusing on the content of what is taught in classrooms to include global perspectives rather than adding new subject areas. Additionally, international expertise already exists within Wisconsin's public and private colleges and universities to support many council recommendations.

"Our next steps are to share the council's recommendations with many different groups. We want to generate discussion and debate, to seek adoption of various action items, and to identify relevant legislation, policy, and funding issues and the enthusiasm to change perceptions, thus bringing global opportunities to more students and schools throughout the state," Burmaster said.

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ATTACHMENT: A summary of the International Education Council recommendations follows. To read the entire report, *International Education Recommendations: Global Literacy for Wisconsin*, visit the Department of Public Instruction's international education website < <http://dpi.wisconsin.gov/cal/interntled.html> > and click on "IE Recommendations."

Summary of International Education Recommendations

I. Global Literacy for All Students

1. Introduce legislative language to support global curricula and international programs at the PK-12, technical college, and university levels.
2. Develop global curricula and connections across the PK-16 curriculum.
3. Promote public and private college international studies outreach centers as PK-16 and community resources.
4. Initiate academic credit for heritage-language learners.
5. Increase the number of students from Wisconsin who study abroad.
6. Increase the number of students from abroad who study in Wisconsin.

II. World Languages for All Students

1. Improve world language proficiency of PK-16 students.
2. Expand offering of languages in PK-16 schools.
3. Develop a Wisconsin language corps to address teacher shortages and under-utilization.
4. Develop materials and resources to support language learning.
5. Expand world language offerings at the elementary level from current 10 percent of Wisconsin school districts to 50 percent by 2020.
6. Propose funding for a major elementary world language initiative.

III. Global Training for all Teachers

1. Address the internationalization of teacher training at universities.
2. Promote international content for teacher license renewal.
3. Provide teacher training in technologies to connect classrooms.
4. Establish a Wisconsin International Scholars (WIS) Program.
5. Expand elementary teacher support of world-language learning.

IV. Intercultural Experiences for All Citizens

1. Assess every community's international and multicultural capital.
2. Acknowledge the arts as a centerpiece for international connections.
3. Make sports and athletics an important international avenue.
4. Expand the number of citizens participating in Wisconsin's sister-city, sister-state, and global outreach programs.
5. Create in-state cultural exchanges for students and citizens.

V. International Linkages for Wisconsin Businesses and Government

1. Create policy initiatives to link business, education, and government.
2. Articulate global needs in business plans.
3. Identify leadership companies and foundations with interest in investing in international education.
4. Increase the number of practical international experiences for students at the college and technical college level.